Economic growth rate

4084. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the I.M.F. has lowered its growth projections for India for 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard so as to maintain the growth as originally projected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND RAO VITHOBA ADSUL) :(a) and (b) The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its World Economic Outlook (April 2003) has projected a real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 5.1 per cent for 2003 (calendar year) compared with its earlier projection of 5.7 per cent for India. The revised growth projection is based on the IMF's perception of the anticipated growth in different sectors of the economy.

(c) The Union Budget for 2003-04 has proposed a number of initiatives such as promoting infrastructure development by leveraging public money through private sector participation, promoting private investment and measures aimed at fiscal consolidation. These initiatives are expected to have a positive influence on the growth of the economy.

Waiving duty on import of life saving drugs

4085. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a request from the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) for waiving duty on life saving drugs and security related imports; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) In their pre-budget memorandum CII had quoted, with approval, the recommendation of the Task Force on Indirect Tax, that the duty should be nil on life saving drugs, government imports for defence, security etc.

(b) 126 specified life saving drugs covered in List 4 of notification No. 21/2002-Customs dated 1-3-2002 are fully exempted from all customs duties. In this year's budget, 13 new drugs have been added to the 88 drugs covered in List 3 of the said notification which attract a nominal rate of 5% basic customs duty. All these drugs have also been completely exempted from countervailing duty by way of exemption from excise duty.

A number of security related imports are exempted vide notification No. 39/96-Customs dated 23-7-1996 which is amended from time to time to include additional items as per requirement of various security related agencies.

Non-utilisation of World Bank Loan by Maharashtra

4086. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government has not utilised World Bank Loans given for the purpose of health, education, roads etc.;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not utilising the World Bank's Loan by State Government of Maharashtra; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that because of this World Bank is not giving further loan to the Government of Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise. Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project, is currently under preparation for World Bank funding.

Task Force on Creditors Right

4087. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government was considering last year for setting up a task force on Creditors Right;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how would the task force help the creditors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) to (c) No